

DATeline #86 NEW YORK
ROBERT L. REDEEN

JUNE 2, 1976

WORKING AT THE MUSEUM WITHOUT PAY
(VOICED PIECE, INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: THIS IS DATeline, PICTURES IN SOUND ,WORDS AND MUSIC
OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.
TODAY, ROBERT L. REDEEN'S STORY OF PEOPLE WHO WORK
WITHOUT PAY AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN NEW
YORK CITY.

VOICE: IT'S NOT JUST ANYONE WHO IS ACCEPTED AT THE MUSEUM TO
WORK WITHOUT FINANCIAL REMUNERATION. AFTER YOU FILL OUT
AN APPLICATION YOU ARE INTERVIEWED AND IF THEY DECIDE
THEY'LL ACCEPT YOUR UNPAID SERVICES YOU MAY BE REQUIRED
TO FACE A SECOND INTERVIEW AS WELL. IF YOU PASS THAT ONE
YOU MAY BE ASSIGNED TO A DEPARTMENT AT THE MUSEUM THE
WAY F. WALKER JOHNSON WAS.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- JOHNSON

"THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS I'VE BEEN COMING IN EVERY DAY,
ALMOST EVERY DAY, AND I'M IN HERE FROM EIGHT, TEN OR
TWELVE HOURS OFTEN TIMES. I WAS MANY YEARS WITH AN OIL
COMPANY AND RETIRED ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO."

VOICE: MR. JOHNSON, WHO LIVES IN NEARBY CONNECTICUT, SOUNDS AS
IF HE LIVES AT THE MUSEUM. HE'S WORKING ON A PROJECT
EXPLORING THE GEOLOGY OF ONE SECTION OF THE MIDWESTERN
STATE OF NEBRASKA, A PROJECT WHICH IN TIME WILL BE
PUBLICIZED IN A SCIENTIFIC REPORT.

VOICE: OTHER VOLUNTEERS SERVE AS GUIDES OR WORK AT THE INFORMATION
(CONT'D) DESK OR IN THE MEMBERS' LOUNGE OR ON SHORT-TERM PROJECTS.
ONE SUCH VOLUNTEER IS BETTY WHITMAN WHO RETIRED SEVEN
YEARS AGO AND BEGAN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WORTHWHILE TO
KEEP HERSELF BUSY. SHE'S STILL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HER
UNPAID MUSEUM EMPLOYMENT.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- WHITMAN

"I WORK WITH MANY FASCINATING PEOPLE AND MET A GREAT MANY
FASCINATING PEOPLE THROUGH THE MUSEUM WHICH HAS BROADENED
MY SCOPE, SINCE FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS I WORKED IN THE
INTERIOR DESIGN FIELD WHICH WAS VERY LIMITED."

VOICE: MRS. WHITMAN, MR. JOHNSON AND THE OTHER TWO HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-THREE VOLUNTEERS AT THE MUSEUM COME UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF MIRIAM PINEO. BUT DO LABOR UNIONS OBJECT
TO THE IDEA OF THE MUSEUM GETTING WORK FROM PEOPLE WITHOUT
PAYING THEM. MRS. WHITMAN SAYS:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- PINEO

"AS A WHOLE THE VOLUNTEERS DO NOT REPLACE PAID PEOPLE.
WE SUPPLEMENT THE WORK THAT THEY DO SO THAT THEY CAN FOCUS
ON THE THINGS THAT REALLY INTEREST THEM. WE HAVE A LOVELY
LADY UP IN THE SHELL DEPARTMENT WHO IS CATALOGUING SHELLS,
BUT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE STAFF WOULD GET AROUND TO
YEARS FROM NOW IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE VOLUNTEER HELP."

VOICE; LAST MONTH ALONE, MRS. PINEO FIGURES, THE MUSEUM GOT OVER
EIGHT THOUSAND HOURS OF FREE WORK FROM VOLUNTEERS. SHE
NOTES TOO, THAT, HISTORICALLY, MUSEUMS STARTED AS
BASICALLY VOLUNTEER INSTITUTIONS AND THEN BECAME PROFESSION-
ALIZED AS TIME WENT BY.

VOICE:
(CONT'D)

PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN INDIVIDUAL AT THE MUSEUM IS ANTHROPOLOGIST MARGARET MEAD. NOW ON MUSEUM PENSION BUT CONTINUING TO WORK UNPAID IN HER OLD OFFICE DR. MEAD SAID RECENTLY THAT SOCIETY IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEERS. "NO AMERICAN TOWN, NO AMERICAN CITY, "SHE SUGGESTED, "CAN RUN WITHOUT THEM. FIND THE TOWN WHERE NO ONE HAS THE SKILL OR THE EDUCATION, THE FREE TIME OR THE DEDICATED INTENT TO WORK AS A VOLUNTEER AND YOU WILL FIND A DYING COMMUNITY." AS DR. MEAD SEES IT, THE MUSEUM GIVES MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE A CHANCE TO BE PART OF "A SINGLE ENGROSSING ENTERPRISE."

THAT FITS RIGHT IN WITH MRS. PINEO'S EXPERIENCE, TOO. WHEN ASKED HOW SHE KEPT UP THE ESPRIT DE CORPS OF THE VOLUNTEERS, SHE HAD A READY ANSWER.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- PINEO

"THE MUSEUM MAKES IT VERY EASY FOR ME. ALL I DO IS PLACE THEM AND THEY'RE HOOKED." (LAUGHTER)

ANNCR: WORKING WITHOUT PAY AT ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST FAMOUS MUSEUMS. THIS HAS BEEN DATELINE, PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ----- (AT THIS TIME) FOR ANOTHER DATELINE.

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WJL/CAK